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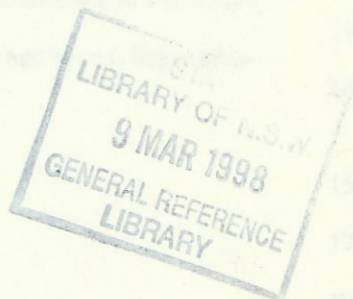
NEW ISSUE

# 1986 INCOME DISTRIBUTION SURVEY

## AUSTRALIA

### PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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NEW ISSUE

# 1986 INCOME DISTRIBUTION SURVEY

## AUSTRALIA

### PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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## **PREFACE**

This publication is the first of a series presenting results of the 1986 Income Distribution Survey. This is the fifth survey conducted by the ABS that has been designed specifically to collect income data from households. The data relate to income units and persons with earned income. More comprehensive data, including information on income of families and households, will be published as results become available.

In the survey, income was collected both on a financial year basis (in respect of 1985-86) and on a current basis, that is at the time of interview. In addition to income, the survey collected data on housing occupancy and costs.

Information on the concepts and methods used in the survey, definitions, interpretation and reliability of results is contained in Appendixes 1-3. Details of the publication and data dissemination program are contained in Appendix 4.

The estimates contained in this publication are preliminary only and subject to revision at a later date.

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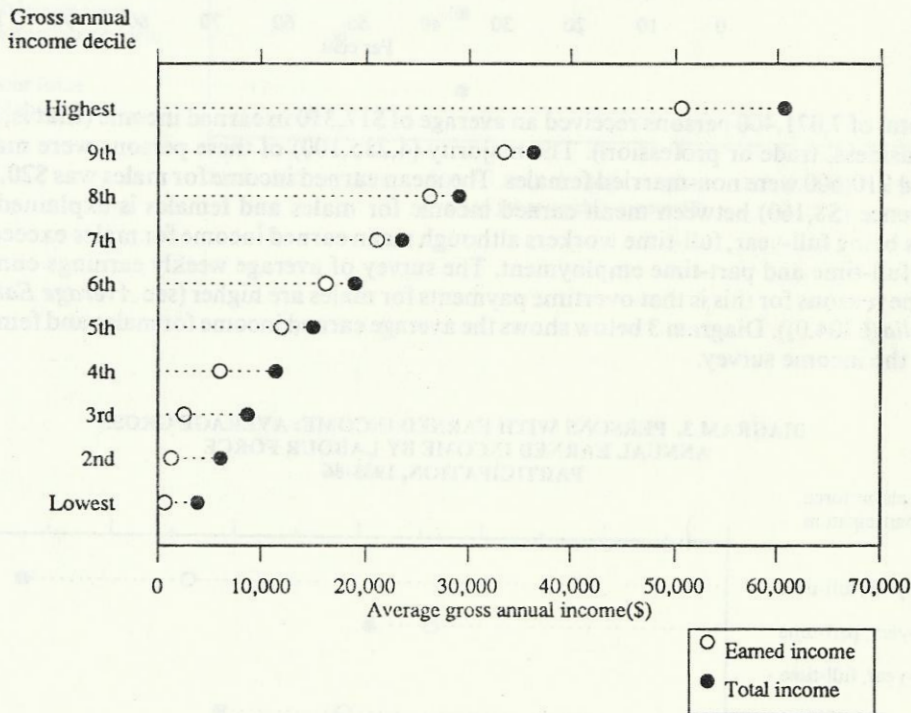
**Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
**Belconnen, ACT 2616**  
**November 1987**

### SELECTED FINDINGS

The mean annual income for all income units in 1985-86 was \$21,390. Married couple income units had a mean annual income of \$29,130 compared to \$12,170 for one-parent units and \$13,320 for one-person units.

In 1985-86 those income units that constituted the bottom ten per cent of income units (lowest decile) received 1.8 per cent of total income while the top ten per cent (highest decile) received 28.4 per cent. Income units in the lowest decile mainly comprised one-person units in receipt of a government pension or benefit. Income units in the highest decile mainly comprised married couple income units with dependent children and in 41.0 per cent of these units, both partners were full-year, full-time workers. The mean income of the lowest decile was \$3,930 compared to \$60,740 for the highest decile. The decile distribution is shown in Diagram 1.

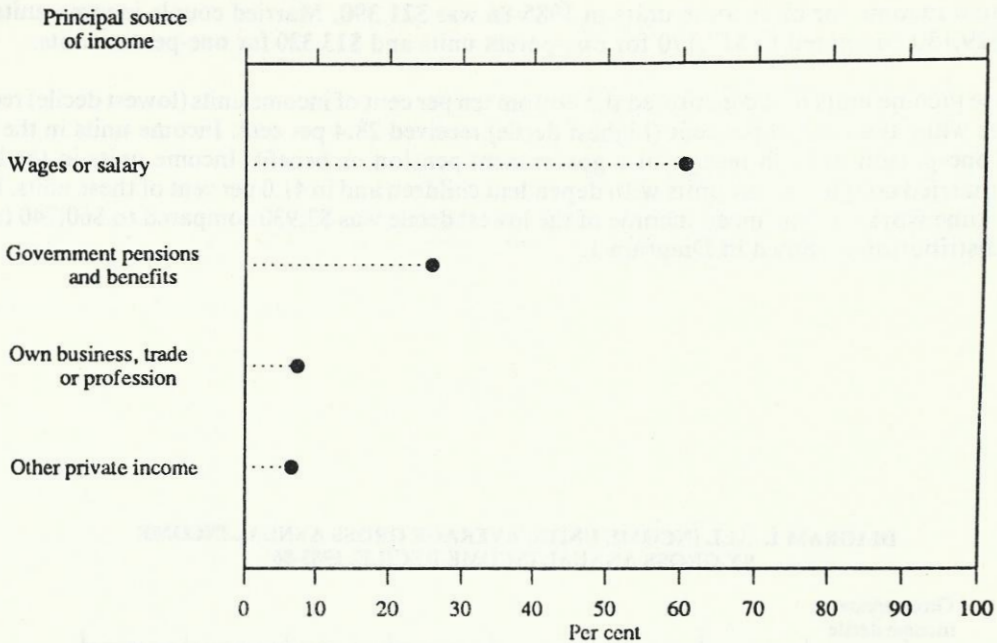
DIAGRAM 1. ALL INCOME UNITS: AVERAGE GROSS ANNUAL INCOME  
BY GROSS ANNUAL INCOME DECILE, 1985-86



Approximately one-quarter of all income units relied on government pensions and benefits as their principal source of income in 1985-86. These income units contained 560,000 dependent children. For most income units (60.3 per cent), 'wages or salary' was the principal source of income while the principal source of income was 'own business' for 7.4 per cent and 'other private income' for 6.6 per cent of income units. (See Diagram 2.)

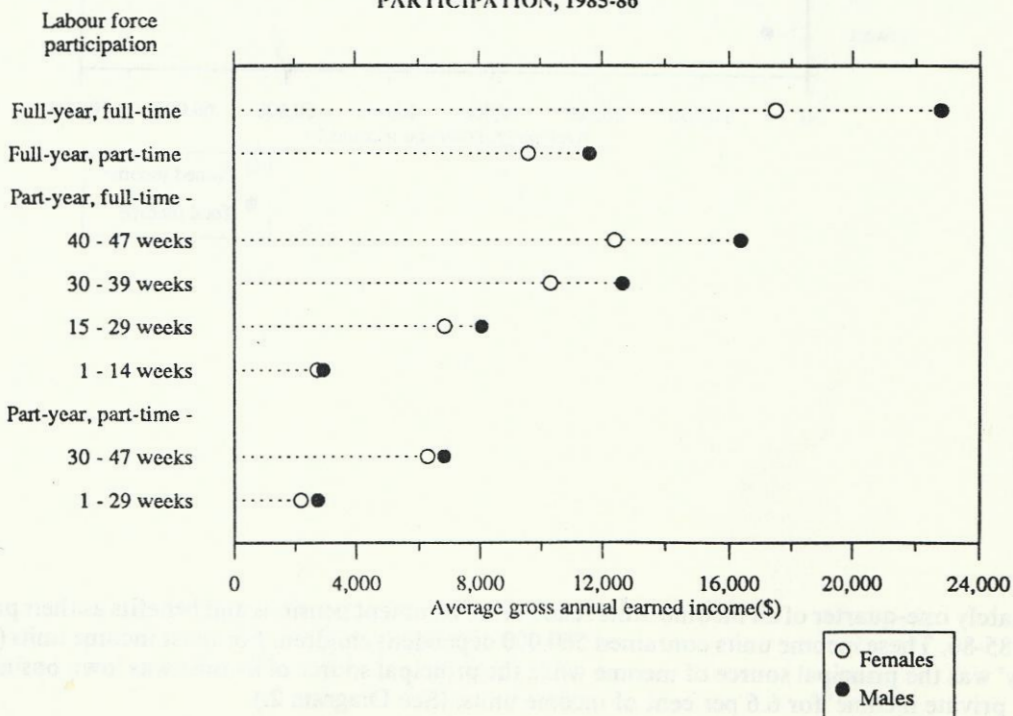


DIAGRAM 2. ALL INCOME UNITS: PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF GROSS ANNUAL INCOME, 1985-86



In 1985-86 a total of 7,071,400 persons received an average of \$17,310 in earned income (that is, income from wages or salary or own business, trade or profession). The majority (4,285,100) of these persons were males, 1,875,800 were married females and 910,600 were non-married females. The mean earned income for males was \$20,530 and \$12,370 for females. The difference (\$8,160) between mean earned income for males and females is explained partly by a higher percentage of males being full-year, full-time workers although mean earned income for males exceeded that for females in all categories of full-time and part-time employment. The survey of average weekly earnings conducted by the ABS shows that one of the reasons for this is that overtime payments for males are higher (see *Average Earnings and Hours of Employees, Australia* (6304.0)). Diagram 3 below shows the average earned income for males and females by labour force participation from the income survey.

DIAGRAM 3. PERSONS WITH EARNED INCOME: AVERAGE GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 1985-86



On a current income basis (i.e. current income measured during the enumeration period September to December 1986), the mean weekly income for different types of income units is shown in Diagram 4.

DIAGRAM 4. ALL INCOME UNITS: AVERAGE GROSS WEEKLY INCOME  
BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1986

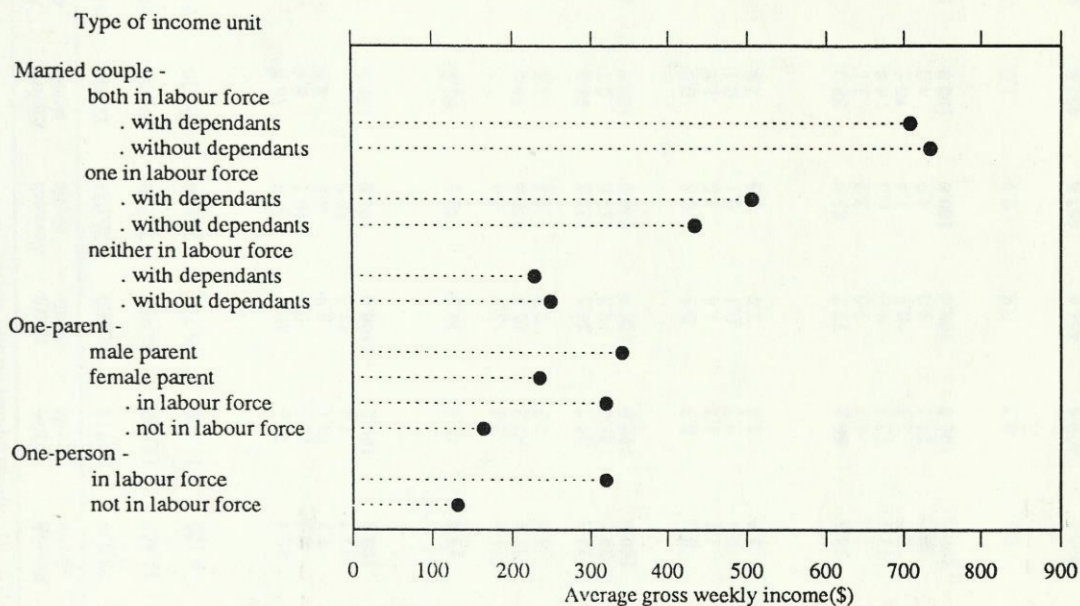






TABLE 1. ALL INCOME UNITS: GROSS ANNUAL INCOME UNIT DECILE GROUPS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, 1985-86

| Characteristics of income units   | Gross annual income decile |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             | All income units |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|   | Lowest 10%                 | Second decile | Third decile | Fourth decile | Fifth decile | Sixth decile | Seventh decile | Eighth decile | Ninth decile | Highest 10% |                  |
| Upper boundary of decile group(\$)                                      | 5,304                      | 7,470         | 9,952        | 13,079        | 16,918       | 21,000       | 26,021         | 32,388        | 41,400       | n.a.        | n.a.             |
| Average gross annual income unit income(\$)                             | 3,930                      | 6,130         | 8,790        | 11,460        | 15,030       | 18,950       | 23,500         | 29,050        | 36,410       | 60,740      | 21,390           |
| Average gross annual earned income unit income(\$)                      | 660                        | 1,270         | 2,560        | 6,120         | 11,940       | 16,210       | 21,000         | 26,130        | 33,460       | 50,610      | 17,000           |
| Proportion of income units with principal source of gross income being: |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| Wages or salary   | % 17.2                     | 17.0          | 28.3         | 46.7          | 70.6         | 80.9         | 84.4           | 86.6          | 90.0         | 81.7        | 60.3             |
| Own business, trade or profession                                       | % 2.9                      | 2.7           | 3.3          | 8.2           | 11.5         | 9.0          | 10.1           | 8.4           | 6.2          | 11.4        | 7.4              |
| Other private income  | % 8.8                      | 3.6           | 6.5          | 7.8           | 10.1         | 8.9          | 4.8            | 4.9           | 3.7          | 6.9         | 6.6              |
| Government pensions and benefits  | % 71.2                     | 76.7          | 61.9         | 37.3          | 7.8          | *1.2         | *0.8           | *             | *            | *           | 25.7             |
| Total   | % 100.0                    | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0          | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0       | 100.0            |
| Proportion of income units with income unit type being:                 |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| Married couple units—   |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| With dependent children   | % 5.5                      | 2.5           | 6.8          | 13.9          | 17.3         | 24.0         | 40.5           | 51.8          | 55.5         | 54.6        | 27.2             |
| Without dependent children and husband aged(a):                         |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| 15-44 years   | % *0.5                     | *0.4          | *0.9         | 1.4           | 2.2          | 3.8          | 3.6            | 7.1           | 14.8         | 17.4        | 5.2              |
| 45 years and over   | % 5.1                      | 2.7           | 42.2         | 31.1          | 17.2         | 16.2         | 16.6           | 19.0          | 16.8         | 22.0        | 18.9             |
| One-parent units  | % 4.6                      | 8.0           | 9.0          | 4.6           | 2.7          | 2.9          | 2.2            | 1.8           | *1.1         | *0.6        | 3.7              |
| One-person units—   |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| Male  | % 35.5                     | 29.9          | 19.8         | 24.5          | 35.2         | 34.6         | 25.6           | 14.6          | 8.7          | 4.8         | 23.3             |
| Female  | % 48.9                     | 56.4          | 21.2         | 24.6          | 25.4         | 18.5         | 11.6           | 5.7           | 3.1          | *           | 21.6             |
| Total   | % 100.0                    | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0        | 109.0          | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0       | 100.0            |
| Average number of persons per income unit aged(a):                      |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| Under 15 years  | 0.2                        | 0.1           | 0.2          | 0.3           | 0.3          | 0.5          | 0.8            | 0.9           | 0.9          | 0.9         | 0.5              |
| 15-64 years   | 0.8                        | 0.6           | 0.9          | 1.1           | 1.2          | 1.4          | 1.6            | 1.8           | 1.9          | 2.0         | 1.4              |
| 65 years and over   | 0.3                        | 0.4           | 0.6          | 0.4           | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.1            | 0.1           | *            | 0.1         | 0.2              |
| Total   | 1.3                        | 1.2           | 1.8          | 1.9           | 1.8          | 2.0          | 2.5            | 2.8           | 3.0          | 3.0         | 2.1              |
| Proportion of income units with labour force participation being(b):    |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| Full-year, full-time  | % 11.6                     | 8.8           | 15.4         | 34.5          | 66.2         | 77.7         | 85.0           | 88.0          | 91.3         | 93.0        | 57.2             |
| Full-year, part-time  | % 3.2                      | 4.0           | 4.3          | 7.3           | 4.1          | 3.5          | 2.2            | 3.1           | 1.8          | 2.6         | 3.6              |
| Part-year, full-time  | % 11.8                     | 11.7          | 13.0         | 17.1          | 12.3         | 9.0          | 6.5            | 4.4           | 3.8          | 2.1         | 9.2              |
| Part-year, part-time  | % 7.6                      | 5.6           | 6.1          | 2.9           | 2.3          | *0.8         | 1.4            | *0.5          | *            | *           | 2.7              |
| No weeks worked   | % 65.8                     | 70.0          | 61.2         | 38.2          | 15.1         | 9.0          | 4.9            | 4.0           | 3.0          | 2.1         | 27.3             |
| Total   | % 100.0                    | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0          | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0       | 100.0            |
| Average number of full-year, full-time workers per income unit          | 0.2                        | 0.2           | 0.2          | 0.5           | 0.7          | 0.8          | 0.9            | 1.0           | 1.2          | 1.4         | 0.7              |
| Estimated number of income units in:                                    |                            |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |             |                  |
| Metropolitan areas  | (' 000) 429.0              | 461.5         | 420.6        | 420.2         | 420.5        | 458.6        | 463.6          | 457.8         | 466.1        | 518.7       | 4,516.6          |
| Other urban areas   | (' 000) 196.9              | 176.3         | 211.4        | 202.5         | 206.0        | 187.9        | 182.8          | 182.6         | 180.0        | 122.5       | 1,848.9          |
| Rural areas   | (' 000) 80.6               | 49.2          | 65.1         | 73.5          | 69.8         | 53.3         | 47.8           | 56.1          | 50.5         | 55.6        | 601.4            |
| Total   | (' 000) 706.5              | 687.1         | 697.1        | 696.2         | 696.4        | 699.8        | 694.1          | 696.5         | 696.5        | 696.8       | 6,966.9          |

(a) At time of interview. (b) Participation relates to husband in married couple income unit, parent in one-parent income unit and person in one-person income unit.



TABLE 2. ALL INCOME UNITS: INCOME SHARE FOR GROSS ANNUAL INCOME UNIT DECILE GROUPS  
BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, 1985-86

| Gross annual<br>income deciles | Married couple income units   |   |                      |   |                                   |                                   | All<br>income<br>units |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                | With<br>dependent<br>children | Without dependent<br>children and<br>husband aged(a): |                      | All<br>married<br>couple<br>income<br>units | One-<br>parent<br>income<br>units | One-<br>person<br>income<br>units |                        |
|                                |                               | 15-44<br>years  | 45 years<br>and over |   |                                   |                                   |                        |
|                                |                               | Income share (per cent)                               |                      |   |                                   |                                   |                        |
| Lowest                         | 2.7                           | 3.0   | 2.9                  | 2.4   | 2.6                               | 2.4                               | 1.8                    |
| 2nd                            | 4.9                           | 5.3   | 3.9                  | 3.6   | 4.5                               | 3.9                               | 2.9                    |
| 3rd                            | 6.4                           | 7.1   | 4.3                  | 5.1   | 5.4                               | 4.3                               | 4.1                    |
| 4th                            | 7.5                           | 8.5   | 5.0                  | 6.8   | 6.2                               | 5.2                               | 5.4                    |
| 5th                            | 8.5                           | 9.4   | 6.2                  | 8.3   | 6.8                               | 7.0                               | 7.0                    |
| 6th                            | 9.5                           | 10.2  | 8.1                  | 9.7   | 7.7                               | 9.2                               | 8.9                    |
| 7th                            | 10.6                          | 11.1  | 10.4                 | 11.1  | 9.3                               | 11.3                              | 11.0                   |
| 8th                            | 12.1                          | 12.5  | 13.0                 | 12.8  | 13.0                              | 13.5                              | 13.6                   |
| 9th                            | 14.1                          | 14.1  | 16.6                 | 15.2  | 17.4                              | 16.6                              | 17.0                   |
| Highest                        | 23.7                          | 18.8  | 29.5                 | 25.0  | 27.1                              | 26.6                              | 28.4                   |
| Total                          | 100.0                         | 100.0   | 100.0                | 100.0                                       | 100.0                             | 100.0                             | 100.0                  |
| Gini coefficient               | 0.30                          | 0.24  | 0.40                 | 0.35  | 0.37                              | 0.38                              | 0.41                   |
| Median income(\$)              | 29,100                        | 35,690  | 16,000               | 26,180                                      | 8,700                             | 10,870                            | 16,940                 |
| Mean income(\$)                | 32,200                        | 36,800  | 22,580               | 29,130                                      | 12,170                            | 13,320                            | 21,390                 |
| Number('000)                   | 1,897.9                       | 362.9   | 1,315.9              | 3,576.7                                     | 260.1                             | 3,130.2                           | 6,966.9                |

(a) At time of interview.

TABLE 3. ALL INCOME UNITS: GROSS ANNUAL INCOME BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT BY STATE OR TERRITORY, 1985-86

| Gross annual income(\$)     | N.S.W.  | Vic.   | Qld    | S.A.   | W.A.   | Tas.   | N.T.   | A.C.T. | Australia |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| MARRIED COUPLE INCOME UNITS |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| —'000—                      |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| 1 - 4,999                   | 31.7    | 12.6   | 18.7   | 4.8    | 5.1    | *1.9   |        |        | 73.6      |
| 5,000 - 7,499               | 17.2    | 10.6   | *5.7   | *4.0   | 6.5    |        |        |        | 45.2      |
| 7,500 - 9,999               | 121.4   | 100.3  | 53.9   | 36.8   | 28.9   | 11.7   | *2.3   | 2.9    | 356.1     |
| 10,000 - 12,499             | 95.5    | 68.6   | 47.1   | 28.7   | 22.5   | 9.3    |        |        | 272.1     |
| 12,500 - 14,999             | 62.1    | 38.3   | 29.1   | 13.6   | 11.1   | 4.0    |        |        | 160.2     |
| 15,000 - 17,499             | 57.9    | 41.3   | 34.5   | 17.1   | 14.6   | 5.2    |        |        | 173.0     |
| 17,500 - 19,999             | 47.1    | 54.7   | 38.6   | 20.4   | 14.9   | 6.4    | *1.6   | *2.6   | 184.7     |
| 20,000 - 22,499             | 73.1    | 47.1   | 31.6   | 22.8   | 20.1   | 10.5   |        |        | 206.7     |
| 22,500 - 24,999             | 66.2    | 47.3   | 40.2   | 19.3   | 22.8   | 6.9    | *3.4   | 3.4    | 207.3     |
| 25,000 - 27,499             | 79.7    | 58.0   | 40.2   | 19.5   | 22.2   | 6.3    |        |        | 228.1     |
| 27,500 - 29,999             | 62.7    | 54.5   | 32.5   | 20.3   | 21.8   | 6.1    | *2.8   | *1.8   | 202.4     |
| 30,000 - 32,499             | 70.8    | 68.0   | 31.6   | 19.8   | 18.6   | 6.9    |        | 2.9    | 218.6     |
| 32,500 - 34,999             | 85.9    | 50.8   | 26.5   | 11.1   | 17.4   | 6.1    | *2.9   | 4.0    | 204.8     |
| 35,000 - 39,999             | 107.0   | 85.3   | 51.1   | 29.3   | 27.3   | 5.4    | *2.2   | 8.2    | 315.9     |
| 40,000 - 44,999             | 75.1    | 66.9   | 39.3   | 11.9   | 19.5   | 8.8    | *2.2   | 5.6    | 229.2     |
| 45,000 - 49,999             | 52.6    | 38.6   | 25.6   | 13.6   | 11.8   | 3.4    | 3.8    | 5.2    | 154.4     |
| 50,000 - 59,999             | 64.5    | 41.2   | 16.9   | 13.6   | 15.2   | 4.0    | *2.1   | 4.3    | 161.8     |
| 60,000 - 69,999             | 31.0    | 19.9   | *5.0   | 5.7    | 13.2   |        |        | 3.8    | 82.8      |
| 70,000 and over             | 34.1    | 31.7   | 12.1   | *3.9   | 9.2    | 3.3    | *3.4   | 6.1    | 99.6      |
| Total                       | 1,235.4 | 935.8  | 580.3  | 316.2  | 322.8  | 106.0  | 26.7   | 53.5   | 3,576.7   |
| —Dollars—                   |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| Median income(\$)           | 26,170  | 27,320 | 24,210 | 23,940 | 26,860 | 23,430 | 36,360 | 39,310 | 26,180    |
| Mean income(\$)             | 29,660  | 30,060 | 26,540 | 26,150 | 29,700 | 26,780 | 39,210 | 42,400 | 29,130    |
| ONE-PARENT INCOME UNITS     |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| —'000—                      |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| 1 - 4,999                   | 11.4    | *7.6   | *2.8   | *2.4   | 7.9    | 4.0    |        |        | 25.6      |
| 5,000 - 7,499               | 15.3    | 13.9   | 13.4   | 8.9    |        |        |        |        | 64.1      |
| 7,500 - 9,999               | 29.1    | 10.2   | 8.7    | 5.1    | 6.7    |        | *2.2   | *1.3   | 62.3      |
| 10,000 - 14,999             | 14.0    | *8.1   | 9.2    | *2.2   | 4.8    | 3.0    |        |        | 40.0      |
| 15,000 - 19,999             | 11.8    |        | 7.6    | *1.8   |        |        |        |        | 25.7      |
| 20,000 and over             | 15.1    | 10.0   | 6.8    | *4.1   | 6.2    | *1.1   | *1.8   | *1.7   | 42.4      |
| Total                       | 96.7    | 49.8   | 48.5   | 24.5   | 25.5   | 8.1    | 4.0    | 3.0    | 260.1     |
| —Dollars—                   |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| Median income(\$)           | 9,030   | 8,280  | 9,460  | 7,830  | 9,130  | 7,680  | 12,330 | 18,900 | 8,700     |
| Mean income(\$)             | 12,170  | 12,050 | 12,260 | 11,080 | 12,340 | 9,520  | 15,630 | 22,590 | 12,170    |
| ONE-PERSON INCOME UNITS     |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| —'000—                      |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| 1 - 2,499                   | 30.4    | 17.7   | 14.0   | 10.1   | 8.9    | 3.1    |        | *1.3   | 85.6      |
| 2,500 - 4,999               | 117.9   | 67.4   | 48.9   | 23.7   | 20.5   | 8.9    |        | *1.8   | 289.0     |
| 5,000 - 7,499               | 282.6   | 214.5  | 143.7  | 79.7   | 60.6   | 25.4   | 8.8    | *2.1   | 817.5     |
| 7,500 - 9,999               | 115.1   | 59.6   | 50.6   | 23.4   | 27.4   | 8.9    |        | 3.6    | 289.3     |
| 10,000 - 12,499             | 78.4    | 91.9   | 42.5   | 18.0   | 23.0   | 7.2    | *1.9   | *1.3   | 263.6     |
| 12,500 - 14,999             | 104.5   | 73.5   | 45.6   | 26.3   | 20.5   | 4.0    | *2.2   | 7.3    | 283.9     |
| 15,000 - 17,499             | 89.3    | 69.8   | 44.7   | 21.8   | 25.0   | 5.4    | *2.8   | 6.4    | 265.2     |
| 17,500 - 19,999             | 94.8    | 55.4   | 33.8   | 20.8   | 15.6   | 5.2    | *2.9   | *2.2   | 230.7     |
| 20,000 - 24,999             | 102.2   | 80.2   | 37.8   | 21.7   | 20.1   | 7.1    | 7.9    | 7.0    | 284.0     |
| 25,000 - 29,999             | 58.8    | 47.1   | 18.9   | 11.3   | 13.7   | 3.6    | *2.0   | 3.6    | 159.1     |
| 30,000 - 34,999             | 25.9    | 23.3   | 7.6    | 5.3    | 8.1    |        |        | 3.8    | 75.9      |
| 35,000 - 39,999             | 18.2    | 10.6   | *5.4   |        | *3.2   |        | *1.6   |        | 41.0      |
| 40,000 and over             | 20.2    | 11.5   | *3.2   | *3.8   | *4.0   |        |        | 3.7    | 45.4      |
| Total                       | 1,138.4 | 822.6  | 496.7  | 266.0  | 250.8  | 80.3   | 31.3   | 44.1   | 3,130.2   |
| —Dollars—                   |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |           |
| Median income(\$)           | 10,000  | 11,390 | 9,330  | 9,530  | 11,060 | 7,700  | 16,310 | 17,180 | 10,870    |
| Mean income(\$)             | 13,490  | 13,950 | 12,120 | 12,100 | 13,340 | 11,160 | 16,990 | 19,270 | 13,320    |



TABLE 4. ALL INCOME UNITS: PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF GROSS ANNUAL INCOME BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, 1985-86

| Type of income unit                                | Principal source of income |  |                      |        |  | Total   |
|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------|--------|--|---------|
|  | Wages<br>or<br>salary      | Own<br>business,<br>trade or<br>profession | Other private income |        | Government<br>pensions and<br>benefits |         |
|  |                            |  | Super-<br>annuation  | Other  |  |         |
|  | —'000—                     |  |                      |        |  |         |
| Married couple income units:                       |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| Without dependent children and<br>husband aged(a)— |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| 15-24 years  | 35.1                       | *  | *                    | *      | *                                      | 36.8    |
| 25-44 years  | 282.5                      | 25.5                                       | *                    | 8.6    | 8.6                                    | 326.1   |
| 45-64 years  | 474.2                      | 92.1                                       | 30.9                 | 65.3   | 144.5                                  | 806.9   |
| 65 years and over                                  | 26.0                       | 15.2                                       | 34.1                 | 63.3   | 370.4                                  | 509.0   |
| With dependent children—                           |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| one dependent child                                | 472.7                      | 73.7                                       | *4.9                 | 16.0   | 38.9                                   | 606.2   |
| two dependent children                             | 640.9                      | 91.8                                       | *                    | 20.9   | 48.7                                   | 804.6   |
| three or more dependent children                   | 351.5                      | 79.2                                       | *                    | 11.0   | 44.5                                   | 487.0   |
| One-parent income units:                           |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| one dependent child                                | 53.9                       | *4.2                                       | *                    | *      | 81.1                                   | 142.0   |
| two or more dependent children                     | 31.5                       | *  | *                    | *5.2   | 77.1                                   | 118.1   |
| One-person income units aged(a):                   |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| 15-24 years  | 988.6                      | 32.4                                       | *                    | 31.2   | 151.6                                  | 1,203.8 |
| 25-44 years  | 628.6                      | 54.1                                       | *                    | 16.4   | 90.9                                   | 790.4   |
| 45-64 years  | 212.2                      | 30.0                                       | 12.5                 | 34.9   | 219.3                                  | 508.9   |
| 65 years and over                                  | *5.8                       | 12.9                                       | 32.2                 | 63.5   | 512.7                                  | 627.1   |
| All income units                                   | 4,203.7                    | 513.3                                      | 121.0                | 339.0  | 1,789.9                                | 6,966.9 |
|  | — Mean income(\$)—         |  |                      |        |  |         |
| Married couple income units:                       |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| Without dependent children and<br>husband aged(a)— |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| 15-24 years  | 30,580                     | *  | *                    | *      | *                                      | 29,640  |
| 25-44 years  | 38,870                     | 33,090                                     | *                    | 40,410 | 9,470                                  | 37,600  |
| 45-64 years  | 32,820                     | 30,740                                     | 20,340               | 30,260 | 9,940                                  | 27,800  |
| 65 years and over                                  | 30,360                     | 31,320                                     | 21,040               | 24,500 | 10,130                                 | 14,310  |
| With dependent children—                           |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| one dependent child                                | 33,480                     | 31,920                                     | *23,790              | 53,690 | 8,780                                  | 32,160  |
| two dependent children                             | 34,070                     | 29,480                                     | *                    | 67,380 | 9,140                                  | 32,900  |
| three or more dependent children                   | 34,330                     | 26,590                                     | *                    | 47,970 | 9,500                                  | 31,090  |
| One-parent income units:                           |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| one dependent child                                | 19,300                     | *26,720                                    | *                    | *      | 6,680                                  | 12,050  |
| two or more dependent children                     | 22,410                     | *  | *                    | *9,200 | 8,190                                  | 12,310  |
| One-person income units aged(a):                   |                            |  |                      |        |  |         |
| 15-24 years  | 12,790                     | 15,110                                     | *                    | 6,700  | 4,390                                  | 11,640  |
| 25-44 years  | 22,000                     | 15,920                                     | *                    | 14,050 | 5,500                                  | 19,520  |
| 45-64 years  | 23,140                     | 18,780                                     | 12,220               | 19,480 | 5,570                                  | 14,790  |
| 65 years and over                                  | *18,680                    | 16,130                                     | 14,440               | 14,050 | 5,960                                  | 7,540   |
| All income units                                   | 26,500                     | 26,450                                     | 18,440               | 25,790 | 7,320                                  | 21,390  |

(a) At time of interview.

**TABLE 5. ALL INCOME UNITS: PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT PENSIONS AND BENEFITS TO GROSS ANNUAL INCOME BY TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, 1985-86**

|  | Per cent of income from government pensions and benefits |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Type of income unit                                | Nil and<br>less than 1                                   | 1 and<br>less than 20 | 20 and<br>less than 50 | 50 and<br>less than 90 | 90 and<br>over | Total          |
|  | —'000—   |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| Married couple income units:                       |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| Without dependent children and<br>husband aged(a)— |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| 15-24 years  | 28.3   | *4.9                  | *                      | *                      | *              | 36.8           |
| 25-44 years  | 283.7  | 30.4                  | *3.7                   | *3.1                   | *5.2           | 326.1          |
| 45-64 years  | 557.0  | 78.1                  | 29.2                   | 63.0                   | 79.6           | 806.9          |
| 65 years and over                                  | 55.9   | 37.0                  | 48.3                   | 159.5                  | 208.3          | 509.0          |
| With dependent children—                           |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| one dependent child                                | 59.2   | 498.3                 | 9.9                    | 11.1                   | 27.8           | 606.2          |
| two dependent children                             | *  | 735.5                 | 18.9                   | 13.3                   | 34.9           | 804.6          |
| three or more dependent children                   | *  | 416.0                 | 25.9                   | 15.3                   | 29.9           | 487.0          |
| One-parent income units:                           |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| one dependent child                                | 13.7   | 41.8                  | *5.4                   | 21.1                   | 60.0           | 142.0          |
| two or more dependent children                     | *3.2   | 29.7                  | 8.9                    | 23.4                   | 52.9           | 118.1          |
| One-person income units aged(a):                   |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| 15-24 years  | 813.7  | 166.3                 | 75.1                   | 53.9                   | 94.8           | 1,203.8        |
| 25-44 years  | 601.5  | 71.5                  | 25.5                   | 28.8                   | 63.1           | 790.4          |
| 45-64 years  | 247.8  | 29.7                  | 14.1                   | 48.5                   | 168.8          | 508.9          |
| 65 years and over                                  | 60.1   | 14.1                  | 41.7                   | 127.4                  | 383.8          | 627.1          |
| <b>All income units</b>                            | <b>2,725.9</b>   | <b>2,153.3</b>        | <b>308.5</b>           | <b>569.6</b>           | <b>1,209.7</b> | <b>6,966.9</b> |
|  | —Mean income(\$)—  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| Married couple income units:                       |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| Without dependent children and<br>husband aged(a)— |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| 15-24 years  | 32,490   | *25,470               | *                      | *                      | *              | 29,640         |
| 25-44 years  | 39,580   | 29,540                | *15,850                | *8,320                 | *10,010        | 37,600         |
| 45-64 years  | 33,020   | 28,150                | 14,740                 | 10,720                 | 9,250          | 27,800         |
| 65 years and over                                  | 28,910   | 32,470                | 15,610                 | 10,950                 | 9,450          | 14,310         |
| With dependent children—                           |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| one dependent child                                | 39,680   | 33,400                | 16,420                 | 10,670                 | 8,030          | 32,160         |
| two dependent children                             | *  | 34,870                | 16,870                 | 10,270                 | 8,570          | 32,900         |
| three or more dependent children                   | *  | 34,330                | 16,520                 | 9,140                  | 9,830          | 31,090         |
| One-parent income units:                           |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| one dependent child                                | 20,280   | 19,950                | *10,770                | 7,520                  | 6,380          | 12,050         |
| two or more dependent children                     | *25,610  | 21,950                | 11,220                 | 9,400                  | 7,580          | 12,310         |
| One-person income units aged(a):                   |  |                       |                        |                        |                |                |
| 15-24 years  | 13,550   | 10,730                | 7,360                  | 5,000                  | 3,970          | 11,640         |
| 25-44 years  | 22,390   | 17,390                | 8,420                  | 5,930                  | 5,240          | 19,520         |
| 45-64 years  | 23,220   | 14,310                | 10,910                 | 6,850                  | 5,110          | 14,790         |
| 65 years and over                                  | 16,920   | 14,230                | 11,260                 | 6,900                  | 5,640          | 7,540          |
| <b>All income units</b>                            | <b>24,290</b>  | <b>30,710</b>         | <b>12,090</b>          | <b>8,580</b>           | <b>6,690</b>   | <b>21,390</b>  |

(a) At time of interview.



TABLE 6. PERSONS WITH EARNED INCOME: GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME DECILE GROUPS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, 1985-86

| Characteristics of persons with earned income  |         | Gross annual earned income decile |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              | All persons with earned income |         |
|--|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|
|  |         | Lowest 10%                        | Second decile | Third decile | Fourth decile | Fifth decile | Sixth decile | Seventh decile | Eighth decile | Ninth decile | Highest 10%                    |         |
| Upper boundary of decile group(\$)   |         | 3,788                             | 7,200         | 10,658       | 13,800        | 16,276       | 18,626       | 21,370         | 25,000        | 30,400       | n.a.                           | n.a.    |
| Average gross earned annual income(\$)   |         | 1,730                             | 5,500         | 8,940        | 12,270        | 15,120       | 17,450       | 19,970         | 23,230        | 27,500       | 41,500                         | 17,310  |
| Proportion of persons with earned income with principal source of earned income being: |         |                                   |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |                                |         |
| Wages or salary  | %       | 98.2                              | 94.3          | 95.8         | 93.8          | 96.7         | 96.8         | 95.4           | 95.3          | 96.5         | 91.3                           | 95.4    |
| Own business, trade or profession  | %       | 1.8                               | 5.7           | 4.2          | 6.2           | 3.3          | 3.2          | 4.6            | 4.7           | 3.5          | 8.7                            | 4.6     |
| Total  | %       | 100.0                             | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0          | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0                          | 100.0   |
| Proportion of persons with earned income and aged(a):                                  |         |                                   |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |                                |         |
| 15-24 years  | %       | 28.6                              | 26.3          | 32.5         | 35.8          | 27.8         | 19.9         | 13.3           | 8.0           | 4.8          | 1.7                            | 19.9    |
| 25-34 years  | %       | 23.6                              | 26.1          | 21.2         | 21.1          | 26.9         | 31.4         | 35.4           | 38.3          | 34.2         | 22.8                           | 28.1    |
| 35-44 years  | %       | 21.4                              | 19.3          | 22.0         | 20.2          | 19.9         | 22.3         | 25.5           | 27.1          | 34.4         | 41.9                           | 25.4    |
| 45-54 years  | %       | 11.3                              | 15.8          | 15.2         | 14.6          | 15.3         | 15.4         | 16.6           | 16.8          | 16.5         | 21.9                           | 15.9    |
| 55-64 years  | %       | 10.3                              | 9.4           | 7.2          | 6.4           | 9.0          | 10.5         | 8.9            | 9.1           | 9.5          | 10.7                           | 9.1     |
| 65 years and over  | %       | 4.7                               | 3.1           | 1.9          | 1.9           | *1.2         | *0.6         | *              | *0.6          | *0.6         | *1.0                           | 1.6     |
| Total  | %       | 100.0                             | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0          | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0                          | 100.0   |
| Proportion of persons with earned income who were:                                     |         |                                   |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |                                |         |
| Male   | %       | 34.6                              | 39.4          | 44.2         | 49.0          | 54.4         | 62.4         | 73.5           | 76.5          | 84.2         | 87.9                           | 60.6    |
| Female   | %       | 65.4                              | 60.6          | 55.8         | 51.0          | 45.6         | 37.6         | 26.5           | 23.5          | 15.8         | 12.1                           | 39.4    |
| Total  | %       | 100.0                             | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0          | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0                          | 100.0   |
| Proportion of persons with earned income with labour force participation being:        |         |                                   |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |                                |         |
| Full-year, full-time   | %       | 12.3                              | 26.1          | 37.5         | 66.2          | 78.9         | 88.1         | 91.8           | 94.2          | 94.7         | 95.8                           | 68.6    |
| Full-year, part-time   | %       | 19.6                              | 29.4          | 28.9         | 15.9          | 9.7          | 4.7          | 2.9            | 2.4           | 2.3          | 2.6                            | 11.8    |
| Part-year, full-time   | %       | 26.0                              | 26.2          | 25.0         | 15.7          | 10.0         | 6.2          | 4.7            | 3.0           | 2.9          | 1.6                            | 12.1    |
| Part-year, part-time   | %       | 42.0                              | 18.4          | 8.6          | 2.2           | 1.4          | *0.9         | *0.6           | *             | *            | *                              | 7.5     |
| Total  | %       | 100.0                             | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0          | 100.0         | 100.0        | 100.0                          | 100.0   |
| Estimated number of persons with earned income in:                                     |         |                                   |               |              |               |              |              |                |               |              |                                |         |
| Metropolitan areas   | (' 000) | 417.1                             | 425.9         | 426.3        | 433.6         | 447.3        | 474.3        | 486.9          | 485.3         | 512.8        | 496.3                          | 4,605.8 |
| Other urban areas  | (' 000) | 188.7                             | 174.1         | 193.8        | 192.0         | 190.7        | 179.1        | 173.5          | 174.3         | 144.8        | 165.2                          | 1,776.1 |
| Rural areas  | (' 000) | 101.3                             | 110.2         | 84.0         | 81.5          | 69.4         | 53.7         | 46.8           | 55.9          | 40.7         | 46.0                           | 689.5   |
| Total  | (' 000) | 707.0                             | 710.2         | 704.2        | 707.1         | 707.4        | 707.1        | 707.2          | 715.5         | 698.3        | 707.5                          | 7,071.4 |

(a) At time of interview.

TABLE 7. PERSONS WITH ANNUAL EARNED INCOME: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 1985-86

| <i>Labour force participation</i>      | <i>Males</i>   | <i>Married females</i> | <i>Other females</i> | <i>All females</i> | <i>Persons</i> |
|--|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| — '000—                                |                |                        |                      |                    |                |
| Full-year, full-time                   | 3,526.1        | 776.2                  | 546.8                | 1,323.0            | 4,849.1        |
| Full-year, part-time                   | 143.9          | 592.5                  | 100.9                | 693.4              | 837.3          |
| Part-year, full-time—                  |                |                        |                      |                    |                |
| 40-47 weeks                            | 144.5          | 51.2                   | 45.2                 | 96.4               | 240.9          |
| 30-39 weeks                            | 122.9          | 38.2                   | 37.9                 | 76.1               | 199.0          |
| 15-29 weeks                            | 149.0          | 52.1                   | 54.1                 | 106.2              | 255.2          |
| 1-14 weeks                             | 85.2           | 49.8                   | 27.6                 | 77.5               | 162.7          |
| Part-year, part-time—                  |                |                        |                      |                    |                |
| 30-47 weeks                            | 55.1           | 154.3                  | 42.3                 | 196.6              | 251.7          |
| 1-29 weeks                             | 58.3           | 161.5                  | 55.8                 | 217.3              | 275.6          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>4,285.1</b> | <b>1,875.8</b>         | <b>910.6</b>         | <b>2,786.4</b>     | <b>7,071.4</b> |
| — Mean gross annual earned income(\$)— |                |                        |                      |                    |                |
| Full-year, full-time                   | 22,800         | 17,860                 | 16,990               | 17,500             | 21,350         |
| Full-year, part-time                   | 11,600         | 9,880                  | 8,060                | 9,610              | 9,960          |
| Part-year, full-time—                  |                |                        |                      |                    |                |
| 40-47 weeks                            | 16,370         | 13,490                 | 11,220               | 12,420             | 14,790         |
| 30-39 weeks                            | 12,660         | 10,590                 | 10,070               | 10,330             | 11,770         |
| 15-29 weeks                            | 8,090          | 7,660                  | 6,140                | 6,890              | 7,590          |
| 1-14 weeks                             | 2,950          | 3,170                  | 2,020                | 2,760              | 2,860          |
| Part-year, part-time—                  |                |                        |                      |                    |                |
| 30-47 weeks                            | 6,850          | 6,660                  | 5,070                | 6,320              | 6,440          |
| 1-29 weeks                             | 2,760          | 2,220                  | 2,140                | 2,200              | 2,320          |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>20,530</b>  | <b>12,130</b>          | <b>12,870</b>        | <b>12,370</b>      | <b>17,310</b>  |

TABLE 8. FULL-YEAR, FULL-TIME WORKERS(a): INCOME SHARE FOR GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME DECILE GROUPS, 1985-86

| <i>Gross annual earned income deciles</i> | <i>Males</i>                   |                         | <i>Females</i>                 |                         | <i>Persons</i>                 |                         |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | <i>Income share (per cent)</i> | <i>Mean income (\$)</i> | <i>Income share (per cent)</i> | <i>Mean income (\$)</i> | <i>Income share (per cent)</i> | <i>Mean income (\$)</i> |
| Lowest                                    | 2.9                            | 6,670                   | 3.1                            | 5,390                   | 2.9                            | 6,270                   |
| 2nd                                       | 5.6                            | 12,800                  | 6.2                            | 10,840                  | 5.6                            | 12,040                  |
| 3rd                                       | 7.0                            | 15,920                  | 7.5                            | 13,050                  | 6.9                            | 14,840                  |
| 4th                                       | 7.9                            | 18,030                  | 8.4                            | 14,680                  | 7.9                            | 16,810                  |
| 5th                                       | 8.8                            | 20,000                  | 9.1                            | 16,010                  | 8.7                            | 18,630                  |
| 6th                                       | 9.7                            | 22,060                  | 9.9                            | 17,320                  | 9.7                            | 20,650                  |
| 7th                                       | 10.8                           | 24,690                  | 10.8                           | 18,920                  | 10.8                           | 23,060                  |
| 8th                                       | 12.1                           | 27,540                  | 12.1                           | 21,180                  | 12.2                           | 25,980                  |
| 9th                                       | 14.0                           | 31,960                  | 14.0                           | 24,440                  | 14.1                           | 30,170                  |
| Highest                                   | 21.2                           | 48,280                  | 19.0                           | 33,210                  | 21.1                           | 45,080                  |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>100.0</b>                   | <b>22,800</b>           | <b>100.0</b>                   | <b>17,500</b>           | <b>100.0</b>                   | <b>21,350</b>           |
| <b>Gini coefficient</b>                   | <b>0.26</b>                    |                         | <b>0.23</b>                    |                         | <b>0.26</b>                    |                         |
| Median income(\$)                         | 21,000                         |                         | 16,660                         |                         | 19,640                         |                         |
| Mean income(\$)                           | 22,800                         |                         | 17,500                         |                         | 21,350                         |                         |
| Number('000)                              | 3,526.1                        |                         | 1,323.0                        |                         | 4,849.1                        |                         |

(a) Excludes 90,100 full-year, full-time workers whose earned income was zero.



TABLE 9. FULL-YEAR, FULL-TIME WORKERS(a) : GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME, 1985-86

| Gross annual<br>earned income(\$) | Age group (years) |        |         |         |                | Total  |         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
|                                   | 15-24             | 25-34  | 35-44   | 45-54   | 55 and<br>over |        |         |
| MALES                             |                   |        |         |         |                |        |         |
|                                   | —'000—            |        |         |         |                |        |         |
| 1 - 2,499                         | 11.6              | 8.7    | *5.1    | *8.3    | 15.6           | 40.0   |         |
| 2,500 - 4,999                     |                   | 13.1   | 16.4    | 11.8    | *5.6           | 56.2   |         |
| 5,000 - 7,499                     |                   | 20.4   | 22.1    | 13.6    | 13.2           | 88.1   |         |
| 7,500 - 9,999                     |                   | 50.9   | 18.4    | 24.7    | 13.5           | 127.8  |         |
| 10,000 - 12,499                   |                   | 71.2   | 31.5    | 28.8    | 18.9           | 188.3  |         |
| 12,500 - 14,999                   | 93.1              | 54.0   | 36.9    | 22.2    | 24.4           | 230.6  |         |
| 15,000 - 17,499                   | 88.0              | 116.9  | 83.0    | 58.5    | 51.9           | 398.3  |         |
| 17,500 - 19,999                   | 72.6              | 146.7  | 86.0    | 77.8    | 49.9           | 433.0  |         |
| 20,000 - 22,499                   | 52.0              | 150.9  | 125.1   | 64.6    | 50.0           | 442.5  |         |
| 22,500 - 24,999                   | 21.5              | 106.8  | 86.8    | 56.5    | 26.7           | 298.3  |         |
| 25,000 - 27,499                   | 19.5              | 124.0  | 116.9   | 52.1    | 28.2           | 340.6  |         |
| 27,500 - 29,999                   | *6.7              | 69.5   | 76.7    | 41.4    | 24.2           | 218.5  |         |
| 30,000 - 34,999                   | *8.4              | 79.4   | 116.7   | 48.3    | 27.6           | 280.4  |         |
| 35,000 - 39,999                   | *5.8              | 36.1   | 67.6    | 40.7    | 18.3           | 165.6  |         |
| 40,000 - 44,999                   |                   | 19.1   | 38.6    | 19.7    | 12.4           | 91.0   |         |
| 45,000 - 49,999                   |                   | *6.5   | 19.7    | 13.3    | *7.3           | 47.3   |         |
| 50,000 and over                   |                   | 13.7   | 28.4    | 22.4    | 13.9           | 79.5   |         |
| Total                             |                   | 521.5  | 1,017.5 | 971.0   | 614.7          | 401.5  | 3,526.1 |
|                                   | —Dollars—         |        |         |         |                |        |         |
| Median income(\$)                 | 15,060            | 21,500 | 24,000  | 22,000  | 20,000         | 21,000 |         |
| Mean income(\$)                   | 15,870            | 22,850 | 25,560  | 24,440  | 22,460         | 22,800 |         |
| FEMALES                           |                   |        |         |         |                |        |         |
|                                   | —'000—            |        |         |         |                |        |         |
| 1 - 2,499                         | *6.7              | 12.3   | *6.7    | *6.3    | *4.3           | 19.3   |         |
| 2,500 - 4,999                     |                   |        | 9.7     | *3.1    |                | 29.9   |         |
| 5,000 - 7,499                     |                   | 22.8   | *4.8    | *7.2    |                | 11.3   | 54.8    |
| 7,500 - 9,999                     |                   | 29.5   | *7.6    | *7.7    |                | *7.1   | 54.3    |
| 10,000 - 12,499                   |                   | 64.0   | 18.1    | 26.2    |                | 14.9   | 126.9   |
| 12,500 - 14,999                   | 75.5              | 44.4   | 43.3    | 23.1    | 11.0           | 197.3  |         |
| 15,000 - 17,499                   | 74.8              | 73.7   | 58.4    | 43.8    | 15.0           | 265.7  |         |
| 17,500 - 19,999                   | 30.9              | 64.7   | 37.2    | 34.2    | 9.0            | 176.1  |         |
| 20,000 - 22,499                   | 18.9              | 53.2   | 30.5    | 20.5    | 10.5           | 133.5  |         |
| 22,500 - 24,999                   | *4.7              | 40.0   | 19.2    | 10.8    | *6.8           | 81.6   |         |
| 25,000 - 27,499                   | *4.2              | 28.3   | 18.8    | 13.0    | 8.7            | 71.6   |         |
| 27,500 - 29,999                   |                   | 13.4   | 10.7    | *4.0    | *5.8           | 29.8   |         |
| 30,000 - 34,999                   |                   | 9.2    | 23.4    | 11.5    |                | 49.6   |         |
| 35,000 and over                   |                   | *8.3   | 13.3    | *6.8    |                | 32.6   |         |
| Total                             |                   | 332.0  | 378.0   | 312.5   | 210.4          | 90.2   | 1,323.0 |
|                                   | —Dollars—         |        |         |         |                |        |         |
| Median income(\$)                 | 13,840            | 18,570 | 17,730  | 17,140  | 17,610         | 16,660 |         |
| Mean income(\$)                   | 13,790            | 19,150 | 18,870  | 17,950  | 18,490         | 17,500 |         |
| PERSONS                           |                   |        |         |         |                |        |         |
|                                   | —'000—            |        |         |         |                |        |         |
| 1 - 2,499                         | *6.6              | 10.2   | 11.9    | 14.7    | 16.0           | 59.3   |         |
| 2,500 - 4,999                     | 11.7              | 23.9   | 26.1    | 14.8    | 9.5            | 86.1   |         |
| 5,000 - 7,499                     | 43.1              | 26.8   | 20.9    | 30.1    | 21.9           | 142.9  |         |
| 7,500 - 9,999                     | 80.4              | 26.0   | 32.4    | 27.4    | 15.9           | 182.1  |         |
| 10,000 - 12,499                   | 135.1             | 49.6   | 55.0    | 52.8    | 22.7           | 315.2  |         |
| 12,500 - 14,999                   | 168.6             | 98.3   | 80.2    | 45.3    | 35.4           | 427.9  |         |
| 15,000 - 17,499                   | 162.7             | 190.6  | 141.4   | 102.4   | 66.8           | 664.0  |         |
| 17,500 - 19,999                   | 103.5             | 211.4  | 123.2   | 112.1   | 58.9           | 609.2  |         |
| 20,000 - 22,499                   | 70.8              | 204.1  | 155.5   | 85.2    | 60.5           | 576.1  |         |
| 22,500 - 24,999                   | 26.3              | 146.9  | 106.0   | 67.3    | 33.5           | 379.9  |         |
| 25,000 - 27,499                   | 22.3              | 152.3  | 135.7   | 65.1    | 36.8           | 412.2  |         |
| 27,500 - 29,999                   | *7.4              | 82.9   | 87.4    | 45.4    | 25.2           | 248.4  |         |
| 30,000 - 34,999                   | 9.0               | 88.6   | 140.2   | 59.8    | 32.3           | 329.9  |         |
| 35,000 - 39,999                   | *5.8              | 39.1   | 73.8    | 44.6    | 19.7           | 180.1  |         |
| 40,000 - 44,999                   |                   | 21.6   | 41.3    | 20.7    | 15.0           | 99.8   |         |
| 45,000 - 49,999                   |                   | *7.8   | 21.2    | 14.0    | *7.4           | 51.0   |         |
| 50,000 and over                   |                   | 15.3   | 31.4    | 23.5    | 13.9           | 85.2   |         |
| Total                             |                   | 853.4  | 1,395.4 | 1,283.5 | 825.1          | 491.7  | 4,849.1 |
|                                   | —Dollars—         |        |         |         |                |        |         |
| Median income(\$)                 | 14,560            | 20,620 | 22,390  | 20,360  | 19,700         | 19,640 |         |
| Mean income(\$)                   | 15,060            | 21,850 | 23,930  | 22,780  | 21,740         | 21,350 |         |

(a) Excludes 90,100 full-year, full-time workers whose earned income was zero.



**TABLE 10. MARRIED COUPLE INCOME UNITS : GROSS WEEKLY INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION BY NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN, SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1986**

| Number of persons in labour force |                             |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                                 |       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Gross weekly income(\$)           | One or both in labour force |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                | All married couple income units |       |
|                                   | Neither in labour force     |                     |                                | One                   |                     |                                | Both                  |                     |                                |                                 |       |
|                                   | No dependent children       | One dependent child | Two or more dependent children | No dependent children | One dependent child | Two or more dependent children | No dependent children | One dependent child | Two or more dependent children |                                 |       |
|                                   |                             |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                                 |       |
| —' 000—                           |                             |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                                 |       |
| 1 - 199                           | 321.3                       | 17.0                | *7.9                           | 67.9                  | 22.7                | 35.5                           | 27.0                  | 16.7                | 26.1                           | 542.2                           |       |
| 200 - 249                         | 152.0                       | *7.5                | 16.3                           | 35.3                  | 16.9                | 31.7                           | 21.4                  | *4.9                | 18.7                           | 304.7                           |       |
| 250 - 299                         | 65.7                        | *3.2                | *7.5                           | 28.0                  | *8.1                | 25.5                           | 13.5                  | *6.7                | 26.8                           | 184.9                           |       |
| 300 - 349                         | 22.9                        | *4.3                | *3.0                           | 49.5                  | 21.5                | 48.0                           | 21.5                  | 11.6                | 27.5                           | 208.3                           |       |
| 350 - 399                         | 22.4                        |                     | 46.8                           | 31.4                  | 61.7                | 14.6                           | 14.7                  | 35.6                | 228.8                          |                                 |       |
| 400 - 449                         | 13.5                        |                     | 44.7                           | 26.7                  | 62.8                | 32.5                           | 13.3                  | 42.3                | 237.3                          |                                 |       |
| 450 - 499                         | 12.2                        |                     | 36.1                           | 30.8                  | 46.2                | 27.6                           | 18.8                  | 41.6                | 214.3                          |                                 |       |
| 500 - 549                         | 8.6                         |                     | 22.3                           | 18.0                  | 54.2                | 46.2                           | 27.9                  | 58.6                | 235.7                          |                                 |       |
| 550 - 599                         | *3.7                        |                     | 19.7                           | 13.7                  | 37.3                | 41.8                           | 35.6                  | 68.7                | 220.6                          |                                 |       |
| 600 - 649                         | *4.0                        |                     | 11.9                           | 10.2                  | 31.4                | 56.9                           | 26.0                  | 49.1                | 189.5                          |                                 |       |
| 650 - 699                         | *3.8                        |                     | 11.4                           | 9.1                   | 23.3                | 65.2                           | 18.5                  | 53.6                | 185.4                          |                                 |       |
| 700 - 749                         | *6.1                        |                     | *4.3                           | *3.6                  | 9.2                 | *6.6                           | 14.4                  | 50.4                | 25.7                           | 45.0                            | 149.2 |
| 750 - 799                         |                             |                     |                                |                       | 10.4                |                                | 17.6                  | 42.7                | 25.8                           | 33.6                            | 135.7 |
| 800 - 849                         |                             | *6.5                |                                |                       | *4.6                |                                | 9.8                   | 46.1                | 19.0                           | 33.0                            | 122.1 |
| 850 - 899                         |                             | *3.7                |                                |                       | *6.2                |                                | 10.5                  | 32.5                | 17.1                           | 25.3                            | 96.3  |
| 900 - 949                         | *4.1                        | *4.3                | *3.6                           | *3.6                  | *6.2                | *5.4                           | 31.2                  | 11.5                | 28.1                           | 79.7                            |       |
| 950 - 999                         |                             |                     |                                |                       |                     | *4.0                           | 26.0                  | 17.7                | 21.7                           | 77.3                            |       |
| 1,000 - 1,049                     |                             |                     |                                |                       |                     | *3.2                           | 23.6                  | 16.8                | 13.2                           | 61.4                            |       |
| 1,050 - 1,099                     |                             |                     |                                |                       |                     | *7.5                           | 21.3                  | *7.9                | 16.3                           | 56.7                            |       |
| 1,100 and over                    | *4.5                        | 10.6                | *6.9                           | 18.7                  | 80.3                | 37.6                           | 71.5                  | 226.5               |                                |                                 |       |
| Total                             | 645.0                       | 32.1                | 38.3                           | 421.4                 | 238.6               | 548.7                          | 722.4                 | 373.9               | 736.4                          | 3,756.8                         |       |
| —Dollars—                         |                             |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                       |                     |                                |                                 |       |
| Median income(\$)                 | 200                         | 192                 | 242                            | 381                   | 435                 | 460                            | 688                   | 683                 | 622                            | 484                             |       |
| Mean income(\$)                   | 249                         | 206                 | 246                            | 435                   | 466                 | 524                            | 735                   | 757                 | 684                            | 553                             |       |

**TABLE 11. ONE-PARENT INCOME UNITS : GROSS WEEKLY INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN, SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1986**

| Gross weekly income(\$) | Female parent   |                     | Female parent       |                                | All female parents | Male parent | All one-parent income units |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                         | In labour force | Not in labour force | One dependent child | Two or more dependent children |                    |             |                             |
| —' 000—                 |                 |                     |                     |                                |                    |             |                             |
| 1 - 99                  | *3.3            | *8.1                | *6.5                | *4.9                           | 11.4               | *4.1        | 15.5                        |
| 100 - 199               | 30.4            | 115.3               | 84.0                | 61.7                           | 145.7              | *8.1        | 153.7                       |
| 200 - 299               | 29.1            | 25.9                | 12.1                | 42.9                           | 55.0               | *6.9        | 61.9                        |
| 300 - 399               | 34.8            | } *3.0              | 22.6                | 15.1                           | 37.7               | *6.1        | 43.8                        |
| 400 - 499               | 13.0            |                     | *5.7                | *7.3                           | 13.0               | *3.1        | 16.1                        |
| 500 and over            | 16.5            |                     | *7.6                | 8.9                            | 16.5               | *8.3        | 24.9                        |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>127.1</b>    | <b>152.2</b>        | <b>138.5</b>        | <b>140.8</b>                   | <b>279.3</b>       | <b>36.6</b> | <b>315.9</b>                |
| —Dollars—               |                 |                     |                     |                                |                    |             |                             |
| Median income(\$)       | 302             | 160                 | 158                 | 201                            | 184                | 283         | 186                         |
| Mean income(\$)         | 320             | 164                 | 223                 | 247                            | 235                | 341         | 247                         |



TABLE 12. ONE-PERSON INCOME UNITS : GROSS WEEKLY INCOME BY LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, SEPTEMBER -DECEMBER 1986

| Gross weekly income(\$) | In labour force |             |          | Not in labour force |          | All one-person income units |             |                   |         |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
|                         | 15-24 years     | 25-64 years | Total(a) | 65 years and over   | Total(b) | 15-24 years                 | 25-64 years | 65 years and over | Total   |
| MALES                   |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| —'000—                  |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| 1 - 49                  | 16.1            | 10.6        | 29.6     | *4.4                | 15.3     | 24.1                        | 17.9        | *8.1              | 44.9    |
| 50 - 99                 | 96.2            | 37.5        | 134.5    |                     | 40.7     | 115.7                       | 54.3        |                   | 175.2   |
| 100 - 149               | 59.9            | 34.4        | 95.6     | 97.1                | 182.7    | 73.4                        | 106.4       | 98.4              | 278.3   |
| 150 - 199               | 83.7            | 14.8        | 98.5     | 11.3                | 17.8     | 83.7                        | 21.3        | 11.3              | 116.3   |
| 200 - 249               | 102.9           | 23.7        | 127.9    | *3.5                | 10.0     | 103.7                       | 29.3        | *4.9              | 137.8   |
| 250 - 299               | 104.5           | 48.4        | 152.9    | *5.0                | *7.7     | 104.5                       | 51.1        | *5.0              | 160.6   |
| 300 - 399               | 173.7           | 173.5       | 348.8    | *5.5                | 10.0     | 173.7                       | 176.9       | 9.0               | 356.9   |
| 400 - 499               | 90.3            | 126.6       | 218.8    |                     |          | 90.3                        | 127.7       |                   | 220.7   |
| 500 - 599               | 31.0            | 87.0        | 118.0    | *3.3                | *4.8     | 31.0                        | 87.7        | *4.3              | 120.3   |
| 600 - 699               | 9.7             | 38.2        | 47.9     |                     |          | 9.7                         | 39.0        |                   | 49.8    |
| 700 and over            | 11.4            | 72.2        | 84.6     |                     |          | 11.4                        | 72.2        |                   | 85.1    |
| Total                   | 779.3           | 666.8       | 1,457.0  | 130.1               | 288.9    | 821.2                       | 783.8       | 141.0             | 1,746.0 |
| —Dollars—               |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| Median income(\$)       | 252             | 384         | 311      | 114                 | 110      | 243                         | 348         | 114               | 274     |
| Mean income(\$)         | 271             | 426         | 342      | 148                 | 132      | 262                         | 382         | 156               | 307     |
| FEMALES                 |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| —'000—                  |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| 1 - 49                  | *7.2            | *           | 8.6      | *3.3                | 18.2     | 16.2                        | *7.3        | *3.3              | 26.8    |
| 50 - 99                 | 67.6            | 16.0        | 83.5     | 31.6                | 71.3     | 87.9                        | 35.3        | 31.6              | 154.9   |
| 100 - 149               | 62.6            | 22.7        | 86.4     | 348.5               | 510.9    | 67.7                        | 180.1       | 349.6             | 597.3   |
| 150 - 199               | 76.1            | 18.0        | 94.1     | 65.5                | 78.1     | 76.1                        | 30.6        | 65.5              | 172.2   |
| 200 - 249               | 89.7            | 27.1        | 116.7    | 18.9                | 25.0     | 89.7                        | 33.1        | 18.9              | 141.7   |
| 250 - 299               | 88.1            | 37.4        | 127.5    | 9.0                 | 11.1     | 88.1                        | 39.5        | 11.1              | 138.7   |
| 300 - 399               | 122.7           | 90.1        | 213.8    | 12.0                | 14.4     | 122.7                       | 92.5        | 12.9              | 228.2   |
| 400 - 499               | 27.4            | 69.1        | 96.5     | *4.2                | *5.6     | 27.4                        | 70.5        | *4.2              | 102.1   |
| 500 and over            | *3.9            | 71.7        | 75.6     | *5.2                | *7.6     | *3.9                        | 74.1        | *5.2              | 83.2    |
| Total                   | 545.2           | 353.6       | 902.8    | 498.3               | 742.3    | 579.6                       | 563.1       | 502.3             | 1,645.1 |
| —Dollars—               |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| Median income(\$)       | 220             | 363         | 275      | 111                 | 108      | 210                         | 245         | 111               | 154     |
| Mean income(\$)         | 231             | 369         | 285      | 139                 | 133      | 221                         | 280         | 140               | 216     |
| PERSONS                 |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| —'000—                  |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| 1 - 49                  | 23.3            | 12.0        | 38.2     | *3.3                | 33.5     | 40.3                        | 25.2        | *6.2              | 71.7    |
| 50 - 99                 | 163.8           | 53.4        | 218.0    | 36.0                | 112.0    | 203.7                       | 89.6        | 36.8              | 330.1   |
| 100 - 149               | 122.5           | 57.2        | 182.1    | 445.7               | 693.6    | 141.1                       | 286.5       | 448.0             | 875.6   |
| 150 - 199               | 159.8           | 32.8        | 192.6    | 76.8                | 96.0     | 159.8                       | 51.9        | 76.8              | 288.5   |
| 200 - 249               | 192.6           | 50.7        | 244.6    | 22.5                | 35.0     | 193.4                       | 62.4        | 23.8              | 279.6   |
| 250 - 299               | 192.6           | 85.8        | 280.5    | 14.0                | 18.8     | 192.6                       | 90.6        | 16.0              | 299.3   |
| 300 - 399               | 296.4           | 263.6       | 562.6    | 16.6                | 22.4     | 296.4                       | 269.4       | 19.3              | 585.1   |
| 400 - 499               | 117.7           | 195.7       | 315.3    | *5.0                | *7.5     | 117.7                       | 198.2       | *6.9              | 322.8   |
| 500 - 599               | 33.8            | 134.0       | 167.8    | *4.0                | *4.7     | 33.8                        | 134.7       | *4.0              | 172.5   |
| 600 - 699               | 10.1            | 52.3        | 62.4     | *4.5                | *3.9     | 10.1                        | 53.2        | *5.6              | 66.3    |
| 700 and over            | 12.0            | 82.8        | 95.8     |                     | *3.9     | 12.0                        | 85.1        |                   | 99.7    |
| Total                   | 1,324.6         | 1,020.4     | 2,359.8  | 628.4               | 1,031.2  | 1,400.9                     | 1,346.9     | 643.3             | 3,391.1 |
| —Dollars—               |                 |             |          |                     |          |                             |             |                   |         |
| Median income(\$)       | 240             | 375         | 298      | 111                 | 109      | 228                         | 316         | 112               | 210     |
| Mean income(\$)         | 255             | 406         | 320      | 141                 | 133      | 245                         | 339         | 143               | 263     |

(a) Includes one-person income units aged 65 years and over in the labour force. (b) Includes one-person income units aged 15-64 years and not in the labour force.



## APPENDIX 1

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

This publication presents data on income units and persons with earned income. It replaces the publication previously advertised as containing preliminary results from the 1986 Income Distribution Survey — viz. *Income and Housing Survey — Income of Individuals, Australia, Preliminary* (6501.0).

#### Scope

##### *Geographical areas*

2. The survey covered both rural and urban areas in all States and Territories.

##### *Dwellings*

3. The survey covered both private and special dwellings. Private dwellings are houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and any other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey. Special dwellings are hotels, boarding houses, construction camps, caravan parks, etc.

##### *Persons*

4. The survey included all persons aged 15 or over except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas residents in Australia;
- (c) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia;
- (d) persons who migrated to Australia after 30 June 1986; and
- (e) students in boarding schools and residents of institutions such as hospitals and sanatoria, and inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.

#### Survey design

5. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and non-private dwellings, and covered about one-sixth of one per cent of the population of Australia. The following table shows the number of responding households across States and Territories.

**1986 INCOME DISTRIBUTION SURVEY:  
NUMBER OF RESPONDING HOUSEHOLDS**

| <i>State or Territory</i>    | <i>Metro-politan</i> | <i>Other urban</i> | <i>Rural</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| New South Wales              | 1,313                | 587                | 159          | 2,059        |
| Victoria                     | 1,221                | 326                | 116          | 1,663        |
| Queensland                   | 659                  | 552                | 190          | 1,401        |
| South Australia              | 842                  | 193                | 107          | 1,142        |
| Western Australia            | 842                  | 194                | 79           | 1,115        |
| Tasmania                     | 222                  | 242                | 99           | 563          |
| Northern Territory           | 0                    | 68                 | 4            | 72           |
| Australian Capital Territory | 0                    | 134                | 40           | 174          |
| <b>Australia</b>             | <b>5,099</b>         | <b>2,296</b>       | <b>794</b>   | <b>8,189</b> |

#### Data collection method

6. The survey was conducted throughout Australia in the period September to December 1986. The information was obtained by trained interviewers in a personal interview conducted with each resident aged 15 or over in the selected dwelling.

7. Respondents were asked to refer to personal records such as taxation assessment or return forms, group certificates, pay slips, etc. to enhance the accuracy of the data.

8. Persons with income from their own business who did not know their annual income were asked if the interviewers could call back when their records were available. Call-backs were made in February to March 1987.

#### Reliability of the estimates

9. The estimates provided in this publication are subject to two types of error.

##### *Sampling error*

10. This is the difference which would be expected between the estimate and the corresponding figure that would have been obtained from a collection based on the whole population, using the same questionnaires and procedures. A measure of the sampling error for a given estimate is provided by the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate (relative standard error). In this publication, estimates with a relative standard error between 30 and 50 per cent are preceded by an \*. Estimates with a relative standard error greater than 50 per cent are suppressed and replaced by an \*. Appendix 3 contains a discussion of sampling error as well as giving details for calculating the relative standard error for selected estimates in this publication.

##### *Non-sampling error*

11. These errors can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete enumeration, and are usually referred to as non-sampling errors. Three major sources of non-sampling error are:

- (a) inability to obtain comprehensive data from all persons included in the sample. These errors arise because of differences which exist between the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents;
- (b) errors in reporting on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions; and
- (c) errors arising during processing of the survey data. These processing errors may arise through mistakes in coding and data recording.



12. Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort was made to minimise these errors. In particular, the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above was minimised by careful questionnaire design, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, asking respondents to refer to records whenever possible and extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

### Interpretation of results

13. As the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. In addition, estimates are subject to reporting errors. Although some respondents referred to their records, in many cases the answers to the questions on income were based on memory. Some understatement in the estimates may be expected because of imperfect recall or misunderstanding, particularly of minor sources of income.

14. For a number of reasons income received by a person does not necessarily reflect his or her living standard. Gifts and donations — for example those made by relatives or charities — were not counted as income even though in many cases they may have been an important means of support. Some people may have chosen to live off savings. Others have received benefits not involving direct cash payments, e.g. employment benefits of various kinds.

15. For certain persons, *annual* income as measured in this survey may not reflect actual circumstances over the period. Such persons are of two types:

- (a) persons not in a position to receive income as defined for the full period (e.g. migrants who arrived part way through the period);
- (b) persons who may have been dependants at some time during the period but were not at time of interview. In this case, attributes measured at time of interview (e.g. marital status, school attendance) are not appropriate variables by which to classify annual income.

16. Consequently, the following persons have been excluded from tables on *annual* income of individuals and, where such a person was the head or spouse of an income unit, these units have also been excluded from tables on annual income:

- (a) females who changed marital status after 30 June 1985 (262,000 females and 262,000 income units)
- (b) persons aged 15-20 years who attended school full time for part of the 1985-86 financial year (250,400 persons and 211,200 income units)

- (c) persons aged 15-20 years who were attending school full time at the time of interview (622,100 persons and 2,000 income units)
- (d) persons who migrated to Australia during 1985-86 (70,300 persons and 58,400 income units)
- (e) persons who migrated to Australia after 30 June 1986 (39,800 persons and 29,500 income units)
- (f) Australians who were overseas for more than 12 weeks during 1985-86 but not for the full year and worked during that time for a non-Australian business (27,900 persons and 23,900 income units)
- (g) Australians who were overseas for the full twelve months during 1985-86 (16,500 persons and 12,500 income units).

With the exception of (c), (e) and (g), persons and income units described above are included in analysis of *current* weekly income.

17. For both annual and current income, income units which had zero income have been excluded from tables.

### Symbols and other usages

18. The following *symbols*, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables mean:

- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available
- \* estimates preceded by an \* indicate a standard error for that estimate of between 30 and 50 per cent. Estimates replaced by an \* indicate a standard error for that estimate of more than 50 per cent.

19. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages in tables are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

### Electronic services

20. VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.



## APPENDIX 2

## GLOSSARY

**Deciles.** Ten per cent groupings of the estimated population when income recipients or income units are ranked in ascending order according to each income recipient's or income unit's total gross income.

**Dependent child.** Person aged under 15 years, or aged 15 to 20 years and a full-time student, who has a parent/guardian in the income unit and is neither a spouse nor parent of anyone in the income unit.

**Earned income.** Gross income from wages or salary, and from own business, trade or profession.

**Employed person.** Person aged 15 years or more, who in his or her main job:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm; or
- (c) was an employee who had a job but was not at work and was: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks prior to the placement date; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks prior to the placement date; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or
- (d) was an employer or self-employed person who had a job, business or farm, but was not at work.

**Full-time workers.** Persons were classified as full-time workers on the basis of the kind of work in which they were mostly engaged during 1985-86, full-time work being defined as work occupying 35 hours or more per week.

**Full-year, full-time workers** are those who had worked in Australia for at least 48 weeks during the year 1985-86, and had been engaged mostly in full-time work. A person who had worked for 25 weeks full-time and 23 weeks part-time would have been classified as a full-year, full-time worker; however it should be noted that most persons who work for a full year engage in either full-time or part-time work, but not in both.

**Full-year, part-time workers** are those who had worked in Australia for at least 48 weeks during the year 1985-86 and had been engaged mostly in part-time work.

**Gini coefficient.** This is one of the most widely used indices for measuring inequality of income. The index, always between 0 and 1, is low for populations with relatively equal income distributions and high for populations with relatively unequal distributions.

**Government pensions and benefits** includes income received through programs of assistance to aged persons, incapacitated and handicapped persons, unemployed and sick persons, veterans and their dependants, widowed and single parents, families and children, and other social security and welfare programs. Family allowance payments are included.

**Gross annual income** is income from all sources during 1985-86 before tax or any other deductions are made. This includes income from wages or salary; own business, trade or profession (including share in partnership); government pensions and benefits; superannuation; interest, rent and dividends; other sources such as maintenance or alimony.

**Gross weekly income** was defined as the sum of amounts usually received per week at the time of interview. It includes moneys received from wages or salary, government pensions and benefits and other regular payments such as superannuation, maintenance, etc. It also includes derived weekly equivalent amounts of income received annually from own business, partnerships, interest, rent, dividends, etc. during 1985-86.

**Income unit.** A group of people who live together and form a single spending unit. In this publication, income units comprise the following: (i) married couple income units; (ii) one-parent income units and (iii) one-person income units.

**Interest, rent, dividends, etc.** includes gross income from interest on savings, bonds, debentures, etc., dividends from stocks and shares, net income from rental of a house or other property and net royalties. Current income from these sources was estimated by deriving a weekly equivalent of amounts received from these sources in 1985-86.

**Labour force.** Persons were classified as being in the labour force if they were employed or unemployed.

**Married couple income units** consist of a husband, wife and dependent children (if any) as defined. De facto relationships are included.

**Mean income** is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a group (e.g. full-year, full-time workers in a given age group) by the number in that group.

**Median income** is that level of income which divides a group of income recipients or income units into two equal parts, one half having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below it.

**One-parent income units** consist of a parent and at least one dependent child.



*One-person income units* consist of persons who are not included in married couple or one-parent income units. Non-dependent children living with their parents are classed as one-person income units.

*Other private income* comprises income from 'superannuation', 'interest, rent and dividends' and 'other sources'.

*Other sources* refers to gross income from other than wages or salary, own business, government pensions and benefits, superannuation or interest, rent or dividends. It comprises gross income from items such as private educational scholarships; maintenance or alimony; a trust or will; and an annuity. Income paid at regular intervals and received by a beneficiary under a will, settlement, deed, gift or instrument or trust was included. However, a lump sum payment from any of these sources was not regarded as income.

*Own business, trade or profession (including income from a share in a partnership)*. In these cases, income was defined to be net of business expenses. If income had not been received in 1985-86 or a loss had been made, income from these sources was recorded as nil. Current income from these sources was estimated by deriving a weekly equivalent of amounts received from these sources in 1985-86.

*Part-time workers*. Persons were classified as part-time workers on the basis of the kind of work in which they were mostly engaged during 1985-86, part-time work being defined as work occupying less than 35 hours a week.

*Part-year, full-time workers* are those who had worked in Australia for less than 48 weeks during the year 1985-86 and had been engaged mostly in full-time work. A person who had worked for 24 weeks full-time and for 23 weeks part-time would have been classified as a part-year, full-time worker; however, it should be noted that most

persons who work for less than a year engage in either full-time or part-time work but not in both.

*Part-year, part-time workers* are those who had worked in Australia for less than 48 weeks during the year 1985-86 and had been engaged mostly in part-time work.

*Principal source of income* is the source which contributed most (the greatest proportion) to total income.

*Superannuation* comprises gross income from regular payments made to a person or his survivors by a former employer, either directly or through a superannuation fund, insurance company, etc. Any lump sum payment received by a person on his retirement was excluded.

*Unemployed persons* are those aged fifteen years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and

- (i) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and;
  - were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
  - were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then; or
- (ii) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of that week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

*Wages or salary* was defined as the gross income from all wage or salary jobs and limited liability companies before the deduction of tax. The value of items such as payments in kind, employer contributions to board or rent, gratuities and tips, etc. were not recorded as income.



## APPENDIX 3

### TECHNICAL NOTE ON SAMPLING VARIABILITY

#### Estimation procedure

Estimates derived from the survey were obtained by using a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

#### Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants from a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that the sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of the estimates in this publication. Standard errors of estimates of population numbers (i.e. persons or income units) can be obtained from Table A. Standard errors of non-population estimates (e.g. mean income) are obtained by using the appropriate factor from Table B in conjunction with Table A.

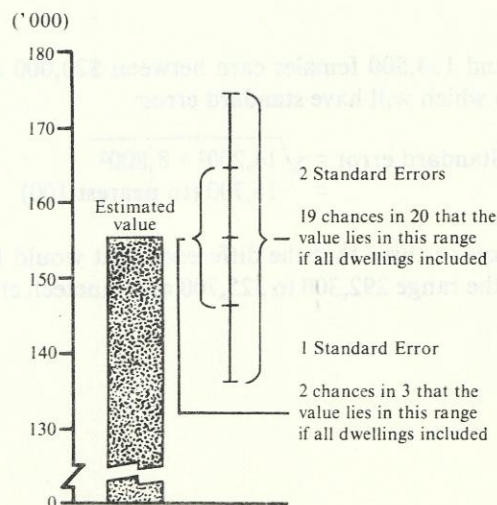
#### Standard errors of population estimates

4. The size of the standard error increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger is the standard error. However, it should be noted that the larger the sampling estimate the smaller will be the standard error in percentage terms. Thus, larger sample estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates.

5. As the standard errors in Table A show, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Only estimates with relative standard errors less than 30% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with relative standard errors between 30% and 50% are included in this publication preceded by the symbol '\*' as a caution to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors. Estimates with relative standard errors greater than 50% are not included but are indicated with the symbol '\*'. Although values for these small components can sometimes be obtained by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. An example of the calculation and use of standard errors is as follows:

From Table 9 the estimated number of persons in the 35-44 year age group earning \$20,000-\$22,499 per year is 155,500. From Table A we see that since the estimate is between 100,000 and 200,000 the standard error is between 7,900 and 10,500. By interpolating we estimate the standard error to be 9,300 (to nearest 100). Therefore there are about two chances in three that the value would have fallen within the range 146,200 to 164,800 if all dwellings were included and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value would have fallen in the range 136,900 to 174,100. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.





### Standard errors of non-population estimates

7. The standard errors of non-population estimates are obtained by multiplying the *relative standard errors* of the corresponding population estimates by the appropriate factor from Table B. For example:

From Table 9, the mean income for females aged 15-24 who are full-year, full-time workers is \$13,790. This estimate corresponds to an estimated 332,000 people in that category, which has a relative standard error of 4.0% (from Table A). From Table B, the factor for full-year full-time workers is 0.7, hence the estimate of mean has a relative standard error of 2.8% which corresponds to a standard error of \$390.

### Standard errors of proportions and percentages

8. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula given for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

$$\text{RSE\% (x/y)} = \sqrt{[\text{RSE\% (x)}]^2 - [\text{RSE\% (y)}]^2}$$

For example:

From Table 1, 13.9% of the fourth decile of income units are married couples with dependent children. Since the decile estimate of total income units is 696,200, the estimate of number of married couples with dependent children in the decile must have been 96,800. Hence the 13.9% estimate will have relative standard error per cent:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{[\text{RSE\% (96,800)}]^2 - [\text{RSE\% (696,200)}]^2} &= \sqrt{(8.03)^2 - (2.40)^2} \\ &= 7.7\% \end{aligned}$$

giving a standard error of 1.1.

Therefore, there are two chances in three that the percentage that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is in the range of 12.8% to 15.0% and about nineteen chances in twenty that it is in the range 11.7% to 16.1%.

9. The difference between survey estimates is also an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling variability. The standard error of the difference between two survey estimates depends on the standard errors of the original estimates and on the relationship (correlation) between the two original estimates. An approximate standard error of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the formula:

$$\text{Standard error (x-y)} = \sqrt{[\text{Standard error (x)}]^2 + [\text{Standard error (y)}]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest.

For example:

From Table 9, 442,500 males and 133,500 females earn between \$20,000 and \$22,499 per year. The difference between those figures is 309,000 which will have standard error:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Standard error} &= \sqrt{14,200^2 + 8,800^2} \\ &= 16,700 \text{ (to nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

Thus there are about two chances in three that the difference that would be obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is within the range 292,300 to 325,700 and nineteen chances in twenty that this difference is between 275,600 and 342,400.



TABLE A. STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES OF PERSONS AND INCOME UNITS

| Size of estimate | N.S.W.    | Vic.      | Qld       | S.A.      | W.A.      | Tas.      | N.T.      | A.C.T.    | Australia                             |      |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|------|
|                  |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | Relative standard error (per cent)(a) |      |
| 1,300            |           |           |           |           |           | { 570 }   |           | { 620 }   |                                       |      |
| 1,500            |           |           |           |           |           | { 600 }   |           | { 650 }   |                                       |      |
| 1,800            |           |           |           |           |           | { 650 }   |           | { 700 }   |                                       |      |
| 2,000            |           |           |           | { 870 }   |           | { 690 }   | { 820 }   | { 730 }   |                                       |      |
| 2,500            |           |           |           | { 910 }   | { 970 }   | { 760 }   | { 850 }   | { 800 }   |                                       |      |
| 3,000            |           |           |           | { 1,000 } | { 1,050 } | { 820 }   | { 1,000 } | { 850 }   |                                       |      |
| 3,500            |           |           | { 1,400 } | { 1,100 } | { 1,150 } | { 870 }   | { 1,050 } | { 900 }   | { 1,650 }                             | 46.7 |
| 4,000            | { 1,900 } | { 1,900 } | { 1,500 } | { 1,150 } | { 1,250 } | { 920 }   | { 1,100 } | { 950 }   | { 1,750 }                             | 43.8 |
| 4,500            | { 2,000 } | { 2,050 } | { 1,600 } | { 1,250 } | { 1,300 } | { 970 }   | { 1,150 } | { 990 }   | { 1,850 }                             | 41.3 |
| 5,000            | { 2,100 } | { 2,150 } | { 1,700 } | { 1,300 } | { 1,400 } | { 1,000 } | { 1,200 } | { 1,050 } | { 1,950 }                             | 39.3 |
| 6,000            | { 2,300 } | { 2,300 } | { 1,900 } | { 1,350 } | { 1,450 } | { 1,100 } | { 1,300 } | { 1,100 } | { 2,150 }                             | 35.9 |
| 10,000           | { 2,900 } | { 2,900 } | { 2,400 } | { 1,500 } | { 1,550 } | { 1,350 } | { 1,600 } | { 1,300 } | { 2,750 }                             | 27.7 |
| 20,000           | 3,950     | 3,900     | 3,250     | 1,850     | 1,950     | 1,700     | 2,050     | 1,600     | 3,850                                 | 19.3 |
| 50,000           | 5,800     | 5,700     | 4,700     | 2,400     | 2,550     | 2,350     | 2,850     | 2,100     | 5,900                                 | 11.7 |
| 100,000          | 7,700     | 7,400     | 6,100     | 3,400     | 3,600     | 2,900     | 3,650     | 2,550     | 7,900                                 | 7.9  |
| 200,000          | 10,200    | 9,500     | 7,900     | 4,350     | 4,650     | 3,550     | 4,600     | 3,000     | 10,500                                | 5.3  |
| 300,000          | 11,800    | 11,000    | 9,000     | 5,500     | 5,900     | 3,950     |           | 3,250     | 12,300                                | 4.1  |
| 500,000          | 14,300    | 13,000    | 10,600    | 6,200     | 6,700     | 4,450     |           | 3,600     | 15,000                                | 3.0  |
| 1,000,000        | 18,300    | 16,100    | 13,100    | 7,300     | 7,800     |           |           |           | 19,300                                | 1.9  |
| 2,000,000        | 23,200    | 19,700    | 16,000    | 8,800     | 9,600     |           |           |           | 24,600                                | 1.2  |
| 5,000,000        | 31,200    | 25,300    | 20,200    | 10,600    | 11,600    |           |           |           | 33,000                                | 0.7  |
| 10,000,000       | 38,500    |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 40,600                                | 0.4  |
| 20,000,000       |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 49,400                                | 0.2  |

(a) In this publication estimates with a relative standard error of more than 50 per cent have not been shown. Brackets around standard errors indicate a relative standard error exceeding 30 per cent.

TABLE B. NON-POPULATION ESTIMATE RSE FACTORS

| Income units  |     | Persons with earned income                  |     |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| Mean income   | 1.1 | Mean income                                 | 0.7 |
| Mean income, single parents and subcategorised married couples (Tables 2, 10)   | 0.8 | Median income, full-year, full-time workers | 0.6 |
| Mean income within deciles  |     | Mean income within deciles                  |     |
| — highest and lowest deciles  | 0.6 | — highest and lowest deciles                | 0.6 |
| — deciles 2-9   | 0.1 | — deciles 2-9                               | 0.1 |
| Median income   | 1.5 |   |     |
| Median income, single parents and subcategorised married couples (Tables 2, 10) | 0.8 |   |     |



## APPENDIX 4

### PUBLICATION AND DATA DISSEMINATION PROGRAM

#### 1986 Income Distribution Survey

To fulfil users' requirements from the survey, a dissemination program has been drawn up. This program consists of three major components.

1. *Publications.* A number of ABS publications are being designed to meet the needs of most users. These publications are briefly described below and may be purchased through the mail or over the counter from offices of the Australian Bureau of Statistics in each capital city.

2. A *public use unit record tape* is planned for release early in 1988, once the unit record data has been 'confidentialised'.

3. *Additional special-purpose tabulations* may be produced on request but full costs of production will have to be met.

Details of all publications, including a summary of their contents, are given below.

*1986 Income Distribution Survey, Persons with Earned Income* (6546.0) — expected release March 1988 (\$8.00, including postage)

Contains data on persons with earned income and examines the relationship between levels of earned income and demographic and social characteristics of the recipients, e.g. age, sex, labour force attachment, educational qualifications, occupation, etc.

*1986 Income Distribution Survey, Income Units* (6523.0) — expected release June 1988 (\$10.50, including postage)

Presents data on income units, families and households. Includes data on private income and on income units dependent on government pensions and benefits.

It will allow the identification of units with low income and present statistics on their demographic and labour force characteristics.

*Information Paper : 1986 Income Distribution Survey, Sample File on Magnetic Tape* (6543.0) — expected release early 1988.

This information paper will provide technical and other details of the sample file, conditions of use and how to order it.

*Australia's Low Income Population* (4114.0)

This publication will be a statistical report focussing on Australia's low income population. Special emphasis will be given to identifying the characteristics of income units and families at the lower end of the income distribution.

#### Related publications

Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Income of Individuals, Australia, 1981-82* (6502.0)

*Income of Income Units, Australia, 1981-82* (6523.0)

*Social Indicators No. 4, 1984* (4101.0)

*Australian Families, 1982* (4408.0)

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.